

Amendments to the Claims:

Kindly rewrite the claims to read as follows:

1-21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) A waste treatment equipment comprising:

a pyrolytic reactor which causes pyrolysis of waste to generate pyrolytic gases and pyrolytic residue mainly comprising non-volatile constituents; separating means for separating said pyrolytic residue into combustible constituents and incombustible constituents;

a combustion melting furnace to which said pyrolytic gases and said combustible constituents are fed, and which causes combustion thereof and discharges molten slag and flue gases;

first flue gas treating means for removing dust from said flue gases;

second flue gas treating means dechlorinating the flue gases from said first flue gas treating means by adding a dechlorinating agent;

a separator which separates water-insoluble constituents not dissolved in water from an aqueous solution containing a residue of dechlorination dissolved therein by adding water to a residue of dechlorination generated by said second flue gas treating means;

a pH modifier which adjusts pH of a remaining aqueous solution after separation of the water-insoluble constituents by said separator;

at least one dioxin removing unit which removes dioxin and the like from the residue of dechlorination generated by said second flue gas treating means and/or from the aqueous solution of which pH has been adjusted by said pH modifier; and wherein

a sodium-based dechlorinating agent comprising a mixture of sodium hydrogencarbonate and a hydrophilic anti-caking agent, and having an angle of repose of 40° or more, a dispersibility

of less than 50 and a floodability index value of less than 90, serving as said dechlorinating agent, is added to said second flue gas treating means.

23. (Previously Presented) A waste treatment equipment according to claim 22, wherein said sodium hydrogencarbonate has a mean particle diameter within a range of from 2  $\mu\text{m}$  to 30  $\mu\text{m}$ .

24. (Previously Presented) A waste treatment equipment according to claim 22, wherein said hydrophilic anti-caking agent comprises silica, and 0.1 mass % or more of said hydrophilic anti-caking agent is mixed into said sodium-based dechlorinating agent.

25. (Previously Presented) A waste treatment equipment according to claim 22, wherein said sodium hydrogencarbonate has a mean particle diameter within a range of from 2  $\mu\text{m}$  to 30  $\mu\text{m}$ , said hydrophilic anti-caking agent is a silica-based anti-caking agent, and 0.1 mass % or more of said hydrophilic anti-caking agent is mixed into said sodium-based dechlorinating agent.

26. (Previously Presented) A waste treatment equipment according to claim 22, wherein said hydrophilic anti-caking agent has a mean particle diameter within a range of from 0.001  $\mu\text{m}$  to 1  $\mu\text{m}$ .

27. (Previously Presented) A waste treatment equipment according to claim 22, further including a mercury removing unit which removes mercury from the remaining aqueous solution after separation of the water-insoluble constituents.

28. (Previously Presented) A waste treatment equipment according to claim 22, further including a mixer for mixing said sodium hydrogencarbonate and said hydrophilic anti-caking agent and a grinder for grinding said sodium hydrogencarbonate.

29. (Previously Presented) A waste treatment equipment according to claim 26, wherein, in said grinder, said sodium hydrogencarbonate is ground into a mean particle diameter within a range of from 2  $\mu\text{m}$  to 30  $\mu\text{m}$ .

30. (Previously Presented) A waste treatment equipment according to claim 22, wherein a mercury removing unit for removing mercury from the aqueous solution of which pH has been adjusted by said pH modifier is provided downstream of said pH modifier.

31. (Currently Amended) A waste treatment equipment comprising:  
means for dechlorinating a flue gas which causes hydrogen chloride contained in said flue gas to react with a sodium-based dechlorinating agent to remove sodium chloride as residue of dechlorination on a filter cloth, removing dioxin and the like from said residue of dechlorination, then, dissolving said residue of dechlorination by adding water, separating water-insoluble constituents not dissolved in water from an aqueous solution in which said residue of dechlorination is dissolved, and adjusting pH of a remaining aqueous solution after separation of said water-insoluble constituents; and said sodium-based dechlorinating agent comprising a mixture of sodium hydrogencarbonate and a hydrophilic anti-caking agent, and having an angle of repose of 40° or more, a dispersibility of less than 50 and a floodability index value of less than 90, whereby occurrence of an excess pressure drop in the filter cloth and occurrence of leakage of the dechlorinating agent from the filter cloth are prevented.

32. (Previously Presented) A waste treatment equipment according to claim 31, wherein said sodium hydrogencarbonate has a mean particle diameter within a range of from 2  $\mu\text{m}$  to 30  $\mu\text{m}$ .

33. A waste treatment equipment according to claim 31, wherein said hydrophilic anti-caking agent comprises silica, and 0.1 mass % or more of said hydrophilic anti-caking agent is mixed.

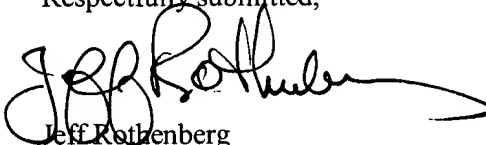
34. (Previously Presented) A waste treatment equipment according to claim 31, wherein said sodium hydrogencarbonate has a mean particle diameter within range of from 2  $\mu\text{m}$  to 30  $\mu\text{m}$ , said hydrophilic anti-caking agent comprises silica, and 0.1 mass % or more of said hydrophilic anti-caking agent is mixed.

35. (Previously Presented) A waste treatment equipment according to claim 31, wherein said hydrophilic anti-caking agent has a mean particle diameter within a range of from 0.001  $\mu\text{m}$  to 1  $\mu\text{m}$ .

36. (Previously Presented) A waste treatment equipment according to claim 31, wherein said means for dechlorinating removes dioxin and the like remaining after removal again after pH adjustment.

If it would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicants' representative at the below indicated telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Rothenberg", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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Dated:

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